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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

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COUNTRY Poland

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SUBJECT

Modzelewski's View of the Polish-Czechoslovak Mutual Assistance Treaty

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1. When Zygmunt Modzelewski, Polish PPR Minister for Foreign Affairs, submitted the Polish-Czechoslovak mutual assistance treaty to the Sejm for ratification on 17 April, 1947, he laid particular stress on articles 2 and 3, which guarantee automatic assistance to either partner that may regard itself as attacked. He pointed out that the pacts entered into by Poland prior to 1939 had made mutual assistance dependent on discussions of exactly who the attacker was. Such is no longer the case, and, in the future, assistance will be automatic and immediate.
2. Modzelewski also emphasized, both to the Sejm and in private discussions, that the Polish-Czechoslovak mutual assistance treaty is intended to dovetail with the Soviet-Yugoslav and Soviet-Czechoslovak treaties. This means, consequently, that the USSR, too, may count on automatic help if it considers itself attacked on any frontier. The eventual aim, according to Modzelewski, is the creation of the "Little Entente" into a Slavic bloc which, under Soviet leadership, can protect the East from the West. However, Poland's treaties have been so worded that non-Slavic nations also may enter the bloc on similar terms provided they are willing to recognize the Oder-Neisse line as Poland's western boundary. The recognition of this boundary, Modzelewski stressed again and again, is, and will remain, the very foundation on which any treaty entered into by Poland is constructed.
3. Modzelewski also made known that Poland's war potential is to be strengthened by the delivery of essential industrial equipment from Czechoslovakia according to terms yet to be settled through Polish-Czechoslovak credit negotiations, which will be conducted by Hilary Minc, PPR Minister for Industry.

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